

# **Committee on Ways and Means**

## **United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement**

### ***Oman Leads the Persian Gulf in Trading & Engaging With Israel***

- Oman has been a leader in the Persian Gulf in establishing trade and other ties with Israel.
- In September 1994, Oman renounced its secondary and tertiary boycotts of Israel. The secondary boycott bans entities in certain Arab League States from doing business with firms that contribute to Israel's military or economic development, while the tertiary boycott enjoins Arab countries from doing business with firms that are blacklisted because of their ties to Israel.
- Oman has also eliminated all aspects of the primary (direct) boycott of Israel, and when Oman acceded to the WTO in 2000, it did not request an exemption for Israel that would allow it to maintain a boycott.
- On September 28, 2005 and June 15, 2006, senior Omani officials issued letters affirming that Oman has no boycott in place against Israel. In June 2006, Oman issued formal instructions to its customs officials restating once again the end of the boycott.
- On December 26, 1994, Oman became the first Gulf State to host an Israeli Prime Minister.
- Delaying action on this FTA would send a disturbing signal that we are turning our back on a critical ally in the Middle East who has been a leader in promoting peace.